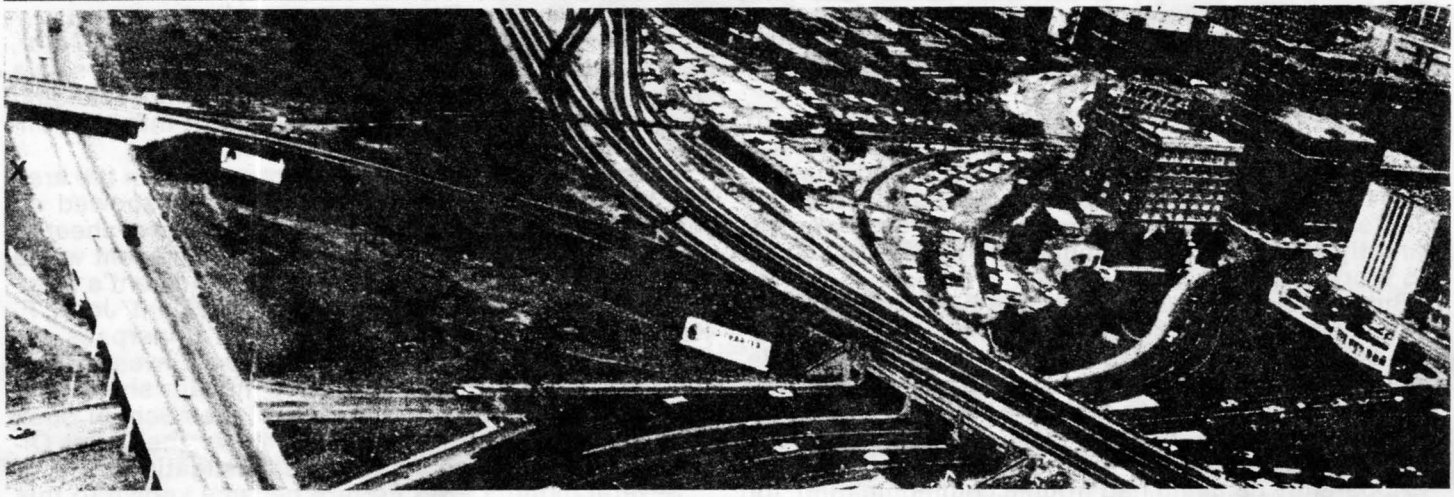
# COVERUPS!

Number 25 Gary Mack, Editor and Publisher March 1986



*At a distance of only three city blocks, the witness's position, at the extreme left of the picture, offered an excellent, unobstructed view of people behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll.*

## A SPEECHLESS GRASSY KNOLL WITNESS

by Jim Marrs

It is a strange irony that the one person who apparently witnessed two men with a rifle behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll at the time of the Kennedy assassination was unable to tell anyone what he saw. He has been deaf since birth and, as is common with that disability, cannot speak; however, this did not prevent him from attempting to alert authorities to what he saw.

Although he did tell his family and close friends, and even reported them to the FBI, the man's observances have remained publicly unknown. Finally, in the summer of 1985, he told the following story which, ironically, has been substantially confirmed by FBI documents. Only a first name will be used.

Ed was 26 years old on November 22, 1963 and about noon time was driving toward downtown Dallas on Stemmons Expressway when he noticed numerous people lining the road (a fact few would know without having been there). Suddenly remembering that President Kennedy was to motorcade through the city, he parked his car just off the shoulder north of the Texas & Pacific Railroad bridge over the highway.

After waiting a few minutes, he walked south along the shoulder to where Stemmons crossed over Elm Street west of the Triple Underpass. From this vantage point, with a limited view into Dealey Plaza, Ed was approximately 200 yards west of the parking lot behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll; in fact, he was almost on a straight line with the fence and at about the height of the first floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

Being unable to hear and not able to see the motorcade, Ed's attention was caught by some movement behind the fence. He saw a man running west, toward him, wearing a dark suit, tie and overcoat. And he was carrying a rifle.

As the man reached a metal pipe railing at the west end of the fence, he tossed the rifle to a second man by the railroad tracks at the north end of the Triple Underpass. That second man, Ed recalls, was wearing light coveralls and a railroad worker's hat.

When the second man caught the rifle, he ducked behind a large railroad switch box, one of two at the site, and knelt down. He then disassembled the rifle, placed it in a "soft brown bag" (which matches the description of the traditional railroad brakeman's tool bag), and quickly walked up the tracks in the general direction of the railroad tower.

The man in the overcoat, meanwhile, turned and ran back along the fence, stopped about midway and calmly proceeded toward the corner of the fence.

Unable to hear, Ed was at a loss to understand the puzzling movements of the two men.

Seconds later, Kennedy's car came into sight through the Triple Underpass. Ed saw the people slumped down in the rear seats and realized something terrible must have happened. As the limousine turned onto the Stemmons access ramp just a few feet below his position, he decided to alert the authorities to what he had seen.

He ran down the slope waving his arms trying to make them understand when one of the Secret Service agents in the followup car aimed a machine gun at his face. Ed stopped, threw up his hands and watched helplessly as the motorcade raced by on its way to Parkland Hospital.

Greatly upset over what he had seen, Ed looked around for help and spotted a Dallas Police officer on the railroad overpass above Stemmons. He walked toward him waving his arms, but the officer, unable to understand, just waved him away. (The police had stationed an officer on that side, Earl Brown, and when contacted recently by researcher Gary Mack, Brown had no recollection of the event.)

Unable to get help, Ed returned to his car and drove to the rear of the Depository hoping to locate the man

with the rifle in the brown bag. He was unsuccessful.

By now virtually desperate, Ed drove to the Dallas FBI office, but found no one there other than a receptionist. He left his name and address before heading for the Dallas Police Department, but the Bureau never responded.

One of Ed's relatives, an uncle, worked for the Dallas Police; Ed naturally assumed this man could help, but he found the station was sealed off and the officer on the door refused to let him in.

Thwarted at every effort, Ed finally went home where his parents, also deaf-mutes, urged him not to get involved and to remain quiet. He did, until the following week, when he saw his uncle at a family Thanksgiving function.

Despite his parents' warnings, Ed told his story to the policeman, who assured him that Federal authorities were investigating the case and that, in fact, the assassin had already been caught and unfortunately murdered. So, reassured that the case was apparently solved, Ed didn't immediately consider telling his story to anyone else.

But as the years went by and he became more and more aware that the official version of the assassination didn't include the two suspicious men with a rifle behind the picket fence, Ed gave in to his own feelings and those of a few close friends who learned what he had witnessed. On June 18, 1967, Ed returned to the Dallas FBI office.

Apparently he again had trouble communicating, for agent Will Griffin's report states Ed "said he observed two white males, clutching something dark to their chests with both hands, running from the rear of the Texas School Book Depository building. The men were running north on the railroad, then turned east, and (he) lost sight of both of the men."

Griffin added "Approximately two hours after the above interview...(Ed) returned to the Dallas Office of the FBI and advised he had just returned from the spot on Stemmons Freeway where he had parked his automobile and had decided he could not have seen the men running because of a fence west of the Texas School Book Depository building. He said it was possible that he saw these two men on the fence or something else."

Whether or not Griffin understood Ed correctly, he talked with Ed's father and brother one week later. Both said Ed loved President Kennedy and had told his story to them just after the assassination. They also said, according to Griffin's July 7 report, he "has in the past distorted facts of events observed by him." (Remember, though, that Ed's father had urged him not to get involved and not to tell anyone, so there was apparent motivation to downplay his son's story.)

Officially, this was the end of any investigation at that time; but Ed now says one of the FBI agents told him to keep quiet about what he had seen or "You might get killed."

Ed did stay quiet until October 3, 1975, when his interest was rekindled by talk of reopening an investigation into Kennedy's death; his response was a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy.

Experts in deafness and sign language who have seen the letter say it is typical of deaf people who try to write the way they sign. Although quite disjointed, the letter briefly mentioned what he had seen and added that his uncle and father said he would be in great danger from the CIA or other persons if he told what he knew.

In what reads like a form letter, dated November 19, Ted Kennedy wrote that "We have always accepted the findings of the Warren Commission" and any decision to re-examine the death would have to come from the legal authorities responsible for such an investigation.

Despite this gentle attempt to keep Ed quiet, he continued to tell his story to fellow workers at a Dallas area electronics firm where he has been continuously employed since prior to the assassination. On March 25, 1977, one of Ed's supervisors, who understood sign language, phoned the Dallas FBI office. He said he felt that the Bureau did not fully understand what Ed tried to say in 1967 and that he should be interviewed again. At this urging, an unidentified FBI agent talked with Ed on March 28, 1977 and even accompanied him to the site on Stemmons Expressway.

This time, with his supervisor acting as translator, Ed was able to give more details. He thought he saw a puff of smoke near where the two men were standing and added that both men had run north into the railroad yards.

Although the FBI agent took photographs of the area illustrating Ed's descriptions, the Bureau showed no interest in pursuing the evidence. On the cover sheet of the report to Director J. Edgar Hoover, the agent wrote "On Pages 71-76 of the 'Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy,' the witnesses at the Triple Underpass are discussed, but the Warren Commission's investigation has disclosed no credible evidence that any shots were fired from anywhere other than the Texas School Book Depository building. In view of the above, the Dallas Office is conducting no additional investigation..."

Several months after Ed first became known to this writer, researcher J. Gary Shaw filed Freedom of Information Act requests with the FBI. He received 17 pages, including Ed's letter to Ted Kennedy and the senator's reply. The agents' reports were repetitious, incomplete and often highly inaccurate. No photographs were enclosed.

Late last summer Ed agreed to be videotaped at the various locations and, while much of the area is now overgrown with vegetation, he could certainly have seen what he still claims. Several copies of the tape have been made for safekeeping.

Not long thereafter, this researcher met with a former North Texas police intelligence officer. After relating Ed's story, this man smiled and said "Did he give you the men's names?"

"How could he have known their names," I scoffed. "Do you know who they are?"

He smiled and nodded. "One of them, the one who caught the rifle, is in a Texas prison right now," he said.

"Would that be Charles Harrelson?" I queried.

He nodded affirmatively (see Coverups 1 for the Harrelson/Tall Tramp/assassination issues).

I then asked this former policeman where he got the information about Harrelson being involved in the assassination, and he said that several years ago he attended a security conference up north and that he was told about Harrelson by an agent of the Secret Service!

FWST 1-14-86

**King day doesn't move Ray**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — James Earl Ray says he knows little about Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader he was convicted of assassinating, and is ambivalent about the national holiday in King's memory.

"The government passed a law making the holiday," Ray said in an interview with the *Knoxville Journal*. "It's a political thing. It don't make any difference to me. I'm not really concerned about it."

Ray, 57, is serving 99 years for the murder of King in Memphis in 1968.

# SIGNIFICANT DOUBT ABOUT "REASONABLE DOUBT"

by Gary Mack

Lyndon Johnson said it best when, with the wisdom of attaining the Presidency after seeing and hearing his predecessor gunned down, he was given the Report by Earl Warren and thoughtfully responded "It's, uh, very heavy."

So, too, is this much awaited work which chapter by chapter builds a case for a Fidel Castro conspiracy in which one gunman, not Oswald, fired three shots from the Depository window in 5.6 seconds. And the hapless patsy? He was executed by mob front man Jack Ruby before revealing his own, unexplained involvement in the plot.

In 555 pages, "investigative reporter" Henry Hurt has written, in my opinion, one of the most disappointing and misleading "major" works ever published in the 22-year aftermath of the Kennedy assassination. Reasonable Doubt is very carefully, cleverly constructed and communicates far more than what at first appears to be a straightforward, investigative effort.

Naturally, the book is geared to the general reader, one who knows little, if anything, about the significant questions raised over the years. In appearances on a promotional tour, Henry has been saying he took "everything ever written" about the case and synthesized it, thus implying that his book contains the only important questions worthy of consideration. In fact, the general reader will also assume, incorrectly, that this book includes most of the new information relevant to the case. That is emphatically not the apparent purpose of Reasonable Doubt.

Missing entirely is the acoustics evidence and aftermath, the Oswald exhumation and alleged illegal withholding of the photos and video tapes of the examination, the Umbrella Man, the controversial "backyard photos," evidence that convicted hit man Charles Harrelson was the Tall Tramp, Billie Sol Estes' fifth amendment excuse when asked if LBJ was involved in the JFK assassination, and many more intriguing developments that confirm again and again that there are hot leads for any legitimate investigation. Even the "Man In The Doorway" photo issue, which has been conclusively resolved by Robert Groden, is ignored.

The very first paragraph of the Acknowledgments firmly establishes a deceptive premise: that Henry Hurt has tapped the critical community and presented the "salient points" of *our* work. There is no way for the casual reader to know *from the book* that most researchers believe the Castro theory to be a deception promulgated by members of the intelligence and anti-Castro communities.

But once aligned with the critics, Henry makes no effort to differentiate his theories from ours. Again, the general reader is given no reference point from which Henry's beliefs can be evaluated.

In fact, the second paragraph of the Acknowledgments further obscures a significant reference point: Reader's Digest. Henry thanks Fulton Oursler, Jr., Edward T. Thompson and Sissi Maleki for their help and support; the general reader, noting they are the first three people listed, will assume they are key personnel at publisher Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Yet the truth is that Oursler is the Deputy Editor-In-Chief, the number two man, at Reader's Digest; Maleki is a Digest Research Editor. Thompson, formerly with the Digest, was the Editor-In-Chief, the top spot beneath the Board of Directors.

When Digest upper management changed after the death of cofounder Lila Wallace, Thompson "resigned" and was replaced by Kenneth O. Gilmore, better appreciated by critics as the ghost writer for Gerald Ford's book about his Nixon pardon called "A Time To Heal." Ford, of course, served on the Warren Commission and admittedly leaked information *during the investigation* to the FBI. Gilmore was the person who decided the Digest would not publish Henry's book, even though it had created the project, had paid a hefty advance and expenses, and pledged to provide assistance even after Henry found a new publisher.

Also missing is any indication that Henry has been a long-time employee of the Digest and remains one of its Roving Editors.

None of this background is mentioned in Reasonable Doubt, so the general reader is robbed of the realization that this work, in all likelihood, represents a very Conservative viewpoint. Reader's Digest is not known to rattle the cages of American government institutions, and yet the critics have consistently uncovered significant evidence pointing to the FBI, CIA, Secret Service and other organizations as being in the forefront of the continuing conspiracy and coverup. That viewpoint is also absent from Reasonable Doubt. Only in connection with Oswald is government malfeasance seriously considered, and that seems to be limited to deeds revealed during government investigations.

Once this background is considered, certain patterns begin to appear. One is the constant repetition, by different phrases, that many of the questions can never be answered. Frustrating as this case is, the critics continue their work because answers *can* be found, and it is just not possible to know what can or cannot be learned. But the general reader will be overwhelmed with how much is supposedly beyond our grasp.

Another pattern is Henry's use of a seemingly logical explanation for a suspicious event without presenting the complete story or relevant contradictory facts. For example, he seems content that Oswald's Raleigh, North Carolina phone call was *in*coming, yet I told Henry of direct proof, both on film shot before Oswald's death and from a live witness, that according to a Dallas Police official, the call was *out*going.

He also seems satisfied that Dallas patriarch H. L. Hunt was the recipient of Oswald's "Dear Mr. Hunt" letter and didn't even mention that E. Howard Hunt was a much more likely candidate.

And Henry's treatment of Charles Harrelson is almost laughable: he ignored three years of research indicating Harrelson was almost certainly the Tall Tramp and concentrated instead on his known admission to having killed JFK. Henry's source for exoneration of Harrelson was brother Claude, identified in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and never retracted, as a former FBI agent.

But the integrity of Reasonable Doubt is best revealed in Henry's treatment of David Lifton's "Best Evidence." Henry took four pages to summarize, and rave about, David's basic work, offered absolutely no contrary evidence, and, in one absurd paragraph, decided that if the body had been moved from one casket to another, and if the wounds were altered, the Secret Service could have had a legitimate reason: to gain an extra half hour for some sort of exploratory surgery in the interest of that great bureaucratic catch-all: national security!

That bogus explanation is extremely suspicious and tells a lot about the kind of book Reasonable Doubt really is. This researcher is a journalism graduate and has worked directly and indirectly, as both supervisor and employee, with broadcast news organizations since 1965. A good investigative reporter would do any, or all, of the following studies to determine whether or not David's theories may be correct.

First, he would review all tape, film and audio recordings made at Andrews Air Force Base to determine if a third helicopter could have flown the body away. Particular attention would be spent on NBC newsfilm, discovered by David after publication, of a craft's running light moving and flashing along the underside of Air Force 1 as it rolled to a halt.

Second, he would study all available documentation on the airplane itself. The plane's lower deck was loaded with the very latest computer and communications equipment, and it seems logical to assume there would be several ways to get down there from the upper deck; in fact, the President's bedroom might have had an entrance.

Third, he would attempt to question all Air Force 1 passengers David didn't talk to. Some Kennedy people stayed in the back of the plane at *all* times and would presumably have first-hand knowledge of whether the body was removed at any time.

Fourth, he would go to Dave Powers, JFK's longtime friend and curator of the JFK Library near Boston and ask about the alleged secret meeting he headed to discuss the sensational charges raised in Best Evidence.

Fifth, he would contact the Secret Service and ask for their official response to David's charges. Even a "No comment" reply has significance.

Henry apparently did none of those. And isn't it interesting that after five years not one person has come forward to say "I was there and it didn't happen." Of all the people who were in a position to know, and who knew and loved John Kennedy, not a one has felt outraged enough to publicly deny *any* of David's major assertions.

When an investigative reporter has the time and resources to pursue a story, he goes out and gets answers. A person who dreams up excuses, under the guise of "an investigation," is something else.

Henry admits to knowing virtually nothing about the Kennedy assassination as late as fall 1981, yet Reader's Digest sent him on research work for Edward J. Epstein's *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald* in 1977. His assignment was to talk with as many of Oswald's Marine Corps buddies as could be found, but how could Henry have known what information was, or was not, important?

For those who have not read Reasonable Doubt, you now have the necessary background to really understand this incredible book. As for me, I won't hesitate to offer my opinion at every possible opportunity—that's a concept even Reader's Digest would support.

DAILY NEWS/Wednesday, March 5, 1986

# Report put out on RFK killing

## Little new data in LAPD summary

By JEFF SNYDER
and FRANK GREENWALT
Daily News Staff Writers

The assassination of Robert F. Kennedy was carried out by Sirhan B. Sirhan, acting alone, and there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the 1968 slaying of the senator at the Ambassador Hotel, according to a police summary of the investigation released Tuesday.

"Sirhan Sirhan fired the fatal shots that killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy and wounded five others," the report concluded about the June 5, 1968, slaying.

"This was established beyond any doubt by eyewitnesses and physical evidence," the report said. "There was no evidence of a conspiracy in the crime."

The conclusions arrived at in the report were made in February 1969, prior to the start of Sirhan's trial.

Paul Schrade, a Kennedy campaign adviser and former union official, criticized the summary released by the Los Angeles Police Commission. Schrade contended the remaining 50,000 pages of actual investigative files could contain evidence of a conspiracy and a second gunman.

"First of all, they want their one-gun theory the only theory on record," Schrade said. "They're trying to protect that and they don't want it questioned by anyone.

"I think the public has a right to know these things and I think the files ought to be opened quickly," he added.

Schrade said he would decide in the next few days whether to go to court to get the rest of the investigative file.

"Under the Public Records Act, we have a right to make a request for the records," he said.

Kennedy, a U.S. senator from New York, was gunned down as he walked through the Ambassador Hotel pantry after declaring victory in California's Democratic presidential primary to a crowd of about 2,000 supporters in the hotel's Embassy Room. He was 42.

Sirhan, now 41, was arrested immediately.

The summary contains a graphic account of the killing from eyewitnesses, but discloses few, if any, new details about the assassination or the lengthy investigation.

It also describes various people and groups, including those with Arab, possible communist or right-wing ties, with which Sirhan might have been associated. Sirhan, who lived with his family in Pasadena, is Palestinian. His family fled Jordan when he was a child.

In addition, the report covered the lengthy investigations into various tips received by police after the assassination, including many people who came forward and claimed to either know or be the infamous "girl in the polka dot dress" who supposedly was seen talking to Sirhan before Kennedy was shot.

A witness, whose statements later were discounted by police, claimed also to have heard the "girl in the polka dot dress" run out of the Embassy Room area after the shooting and shout, "We shot him. We shot him. We just shot Senator Kennedy."

A young woman who authorities believe was the "girl in the polka dot dress" testified at Sirhan's 1969 trial. Police, according to the summary released Tuesday, discounted various rumors that she was involved in any conspiracy.

The whole report also discounted any theories of a conspiracy, including a "second gun" scenario advanced by several writers and private investigators. Included in the report were accounts of all the theories, along with the investigative efforts and the police conclusion that they were in error.

The heavily censored, 1,453-page summary was released after years of pressure from several fronts and led by Schrade, who was shot in the head in the gunfire that also wounded four others.

Police commission members handed over to Mayor Tom Bradley the task of screening and releasing the remaining 50,000 pages of investigative files that Schrade and others have been seeking for almost 18 years. They also asked the mayor to appoint a special committee to screen the remaining documents and decide when — or if — they should be made public.

"You are doing a public relations gesture by providing this summary," said Schrade, now an American Civil Liberties Union organizer who lives in the Hollywood Hills.

Schrade contended that the actual investigative documents contain a statement from an FBI investigator indicating there may have been a second gunman at the hotel because several extra bullets were found lodged in a door jam.

However, he claimed evidence pointing to a second gunman, including X-rays and the door jam, has been destroyed.

"I don't know that there was two guns firing in there," Schrade said after Tuesday's police commission hearing. "But when there is evidence that this has now been destroyed or suppressed by the Police Department, (it) leads me to suspect that there is more to this story than the Police Department put in its report that was put out today."

The commission, at a packed hearing at Parker Center, unanimously recommended that Bradley appoint City Archivist Hynda Rudd, City Librarian Wyman H. Jones and Dr. Amarjit S. Marwah, president of the Cultural Heritage Commission, to the committee.

Bradley pledged to follow the commission's recommendations and said he would appoint other people to the committee, which also would establish a timetable for the release of the remaining documents.

"I'li act as quickly as I can," Bradley said later while attending a political event at Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles.

Sirhan was captured in the hotel pantry just after the shots that felled Kennedy and the others were fired. He was tried before a jury in Los Angeles Superior Court and convicted April 17, 1969.

His writings that were found in his home reveal the assassination plan and express hatred for Kennedy's pro-Israeli stance.

Sirhan was sentenced to die in the gas chamber on April 23, 1969. However, his sentence later was changed to life imprisonment after the California Supreme Court struck down the death penalty law in 1972.

Sirhan has been denied parole eight times. His next hearing before the California Parole Board is scheduled for March 27.

The report released by the police commission concluded that Sirhan acted with premeditation and was legally sane when he fired the bullets into Kennedy at close range.

Police commission Vice President Barbara Schlei said the delay in releasing the summary occurred because the commission wanted to establish guidelines protecting privacy for the eventual release of the actual investigative material.

**Daily News staff writer John Marelius also contributed to this story.**

# FW Author Wins $120 Million Libel Suit

By LEONARD SANDERS

David Atlee Phillips, member of a well known Fort Worth family, has won full retraction and an out-of-court settlement in his $120 million, four-year libel suit against the authors and publisher of a 1980 book, "Death in Washington."

Leonard Sanders

Phillips, also an author, was chief of the Western Hemisphere desk at the Central Intelligence Agency upon his retirement in 1975.

Under terms of the agreement, the amount of the settlement was not disclosed.

"It's a sum suitable to us," Phillips said.

In the book, authors Donald Freed and Fred S. Landis alleged that Phillips directed a coverup operation to hide supposed links between the CIA and the 1976 assassination of Orlando Letelier. A former foreign minister of Chile, Letelier was killed in Washington.

Phillips had retired from the CIA approximately 18 months before the Letelier assassination.

Further, the authors alleged that Phillips was "Maurice Bishop," identified as a CIA officer supposedly in contact with Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. A photograph of Phillips reproduced in the book bore the caption, "The other Lee Harvey Oswald."

Contacted at his home in Bethesda, Md., Phillips indicated that the "symbolic part" of the agreement was of prime consideration.

The agreement calls for a full-page advertisement in a "major media magazine," publishing the retraction. The advertisement is scheduled to appear in a forthcoming issue of Publisher's Weekly.

The publisher of "Death in Washington," Lawrence Hill & Co. of Westport, Conn., issued a statement: "In light of the foregoing statements by the authors, the publisher expresses its regret that the book as published contained the statements now retracted by the authors."

In one of his own books, "The Night Watch: 25 Years of Peculiar Service," Phillips described the difficulty of reconciling what he deemed a necessary and honorable profession with the dire impressions of the CIA his seven children received from the media during the Vietnam era.

A native of Fort Worth, he is the author of two other books, "The Great Texas Murder Trials," an examination of the T. Cullen Davis cases, and "The Carlos Contract," a novel based on the international terrorist known as Carlos.

He has founded a legal action fund, Challenge, Inc., to help former intelligence officers and other former government officials to bring libel suits. The fund currently is supporting two other cases involving former U.S. officials. In addition, Phillips is pursuing legal ac! tion in London, where some of the offending material was "picked up" and republished.

Acknowledging that the settlement was not a total victory, Phillips added, "I think I was exonerated to the extent that I think our system does or should allow exoneration."

He explained: "It's a very difficult line, whether you're a lawyer, a journalist, or an intelligence man, to know just where that line is between the First Amendment and the practice of secret operations."

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March 7, 1986 FORT WORTH NEWS-TRIBUNE

FWST 10-23-85 (edited)

# Book offers inside look at TV

Liz SMITH

"I'm very optimistic about this country ... because when you see what countries are doing to people like me for just saying something, and ... when you see what I'm getting in this country for doing the same thing, you tend to think that it's not a bad place. The thing about this country is if you attack the establishment and do it well, they make you a member of the establishment immediately!"

So said philosopher **Art Buchwald** to *60 Minutes*.

• • •

**THIS IS** just one of many delightful and dazzling quotes made by the famous in the forthcoming book by CBS producer **Don Hewitt**. The memoir, to be published by **Random House** at the end of November, is titled *Minute By Minute*. It is Hewitt's own slangy, breezy, often thoughtful account of his life and times, especially as chieftain of the most famous news-documentary-interview show in television history.

**HEWITT GIVES** good dish, most of it funny, like how **Lyndon Johnson** once made him run along behind the presidential car, and why *60 Minutes* and the FBI both poured over photos of the crowd that surrounded Gov. **George Wallace** when he was shot, trying to discover if one man therein could have been G. **Gordon Liddy**. He tells why **Bobby Kennedy** wasn't interested in examining any "conspiracy theory" in the death of **President Kennedy** (because Hewitt thinks RFK didn't believe there was a conspiracy).

# THE MONROE REPORT

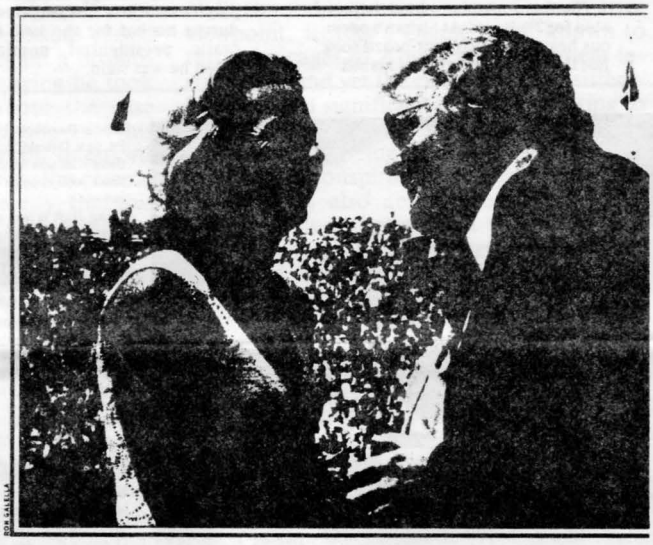
## News staffers at ABC-TV cry 'cover-up' when their bosses kill a *20/20* magazine segment on Marilyn Monroe's links to Jack and Bobby Kennedy

PEOPLE 10-21-85

**"It was solid journalism,"** says Hugh Downs, of the canceled Monroe documentary.

**Correspondent Sylvia Chase,** says Geraldo Rivera, "double-checked the segment."

**Barbara Walters** reportedly expressed her dismay to Arledge about his spiking the story.



JON GALLELA

**ABC-TV News chief** Roone Arledge (with Ethel Kennedy in 1973) says his friendship with the Kennedys had nothing to do with his killing the segment on Marilyn (left, photographed a month before her Aug. 4, 1962 death).

When the decision came down, Barbara Walters, Geraldo Rivera and Hugh Downs stood together on the set of ABC's *20/20*. Linking arms to symbolize their unanimity, the trio of TV news personalities vowed to protest the network's last-minute decision to kill an investigative segment on the mysterious circumstances surrounding the 1962 death of Marilyn Monroe, complete with interviews about the movie queen's alleged affairs with both John and Bobby Kennedy. If the three were disturbed by upper management's move to yank the Monroe segment, they and those who worked on the report were outraged by ABC News chief Roone Arledge's remark to columnist Liz Smith that the minidocumentary was "a piece of sleazy journalism."

CONTINUED

Arledge has since claimed that he was misquoted, but the damage was done. "That remark was off base," says Downs. "I don't associate myself with sleazy reporting." "I'm appalled," adds Rivera. "I think that story was a solid piece of TV reporting. They are not going to get away with this. It's going to be a major controversy."

It already is. The report was supposed to have aired September 26 (originally 26 minutes in length, the segment was cut to 17 and finally to 13 minutes), then was postponed to October 3, then killed. Arledge has been attempting ever since to both hold his ground and pacify the disrupted network. Normally a mild-mannered company man, Downs has said that he "will not be involved in a cover-up for the company." Rivera has been even more outspoken. "The decision," he says, "smacks of cronyism, though I can't prove that."

The suggestion is that the network's many connections to the Kennedy family influenced the decision to snuff the controversial segment. Arledge, for instance, is a longtime friend of Ethel Kennedy, Bobby's widow. Jeff Ruhe, 33, an Arledge assistant, is married to Courtney Kennedy, 29, the fifth of Bobby's 11 children. David Burke, vice-president of ABC News, is a former aide to Ted Kennedy. Arledge declines to comment on these charges. Queried on the matter, Maurie Perl, press representative for the program, says, "It is known that [Arledge] is friends with a number of people. But just last night he said, 'I wouldn't censor anything because it would offend a friend. I've already offended half the friends I have.' "

Case closed? Hardly. Network employees say that the Monroe portion was one of *20/20*'s most ambitious projects and that it had been thoroughly researched. Sylvia Chase, whom *TV Guide* has called "the most trusted woman on TV," was the correspondent, and the report was co-produced by Stanhope Gould, who earned a 1972-73 news Emmy. ABC sources say that Arledge, who generally lets executive producer Av Westin call the shots on *20/20*, approved the Monroe investigation, then had objections to the 26-minute segment. A shortened version was ready for broadcast, but just before airtime Arledge yanked it. In fact, says one staffer, "Sylvia Chase was in the studio getting her hair and makeup done when it was canceled."

The stillborn segment was, according to Downs, "a deeper incursion into the Kennedy mystique than we've ever seen." By most reports, however, the legwork for the *20/20* piece was largely, if indirectly, done by British author Anthony Summers, 42. A former BBC correspondent, co-author of *The File on the Tsar* and author of *Conspiracy* (about the assassination of JFK), Summers has just published *Goddess: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe* (Macmillan, $18.95). The *20/20* staff reportedly followed the book closely.

Summers' book is both a biography and a detective tale that seeks to establish what really happened during Marilyn's last days and hours—whether she was murdered (as the darkest legend has it), took her own life (the official version) or simply overestimated her capacity for the barbiturates that killed her. Summers ends up plumping for the last and least melodramatic of the three. But he also speculates intriguingly on long-standing rumors that Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa had Monroe's home bugged, tape-recording Marilyn's evenings of dalliance with Jack and Robert Kennedy. Hoffa supposedly planned to blackmail Bobby to get him to ease up on his war against the Teamsters and organized crime. According to staffers who have seen the canceled ABC report, the TV version went even further. The *20/20* segment is said to have included on-air interviews with men who say they did the bugging on Hoffa's orders.

Interestingly, the BBC has completed a parallel documentary called *The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe*, scheduled to air in Britain on October 25 (and in the U.S. on Selec TV on October 20), that covers much of the same ground. Like Summers, the BBC documentary reportedly contends that Bobby Kennedy, who wanted to break off their relationship, visited Monroe on the last day of her life. Summers' book and the BBC also speculate strongly that Kennedy brother-in-law Peter Lawford, who lived nearby and had been instrumental in introducing Marilyn to the Kennedy brothers, helped to "sanitize" her home after her death, removing notes, papers and diaries that might have linked her to the politicians. No records were found, though Marilyn was known to be an inveterate scribbler. The truth remains elusive. Sources for the stories—a maid, neighbors, friends—give often inconsistent accounts.

Last week Arledge told the *New York Times* that the *20/20* segment "set out to be a piece which would demonstrate that because of alleged relations between Bobby Kennedy and John Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe the Presidency was compromised because organized crime was involved." He said he axed the finished product because it did not "live up to its billing"—it was "gossip-column stuff."

Summers, who was interviewed by *20/20*, differs. "As a lone reporter," he says, "I was both interested and apprehensive to see what *20/20* would do with its vast resources and dollars. I found they carried [the investigation] even further than I did."

"It was a superb job of reporting," insists Hugh Downs. "If we had zeroed in on the owner of an oil company, it would not have been called sleazy. I believe a dead President belongs to history, and history should be accurate." Rivera likens ABC's action to the cover-ups *20/20* is itself used to exposing. "If a politician did this," he says, "we'd all do an exposé. But it happened within our own ranks."

*—Written by William Plummer, reported by Jane Hall, Ron LaBrecque and Susan Vaughn*

These developments occurred both before and after publication of the People story - 10/4: Summers told AP the cancellation "was a result of biased news management and political pressure." Smith told AP Arledge did call the program "sleazy journalism" and "I even asked him 'Is that what you really want to say?'" 10/5: Smith reported Ethel Kennedy "got awfully angry with ABC when they allowed...Sirhan...on Nightline." 10/8: The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors asked for a grand jury investigation of MM's death. 10/9: Arledge agrees to meet with Downs, Walters, Chase and producer Av Westin. 10/10: ABC says the cancellation was made by the entire top echelon of ABC News, including Arledge, adding that the premise was judged inadequately supported. 10/12: Smith reports insiders deny others were involved in the decision. 10/23: Geraldo Rivera, saying "the recent friction accelerated (my) decision," quit 20/20 and ABC. 10/27: LA grand jury foreman Sam Cordova, after considering the new allegations, asks for a special prosecutor to help the grand jury. 10/28: Cordova fired by LA District Attorney Ira Weiner, allegedly because of complaints by jurors he was making unauthorized statements on their behalf. 10/30: Smith reports Life magazine killed it's JFK/MM cover and major report by it's own reporters because "everyone was working off the same material." 10/31: Dr. Thomas Noguchi, who did the MM autopsy, called for a new investigation so the new evidence can "be confirmed or negated." 11/8: Reiner says there isn't even

a "bare suspicion" MM was murdered and recommended no new investigation was needed. 11/22(!): LA grand jury says "(we) will not pursue the Marilyn Monroe case any further" and had no explanation. 12/2: Arledge reveals CBS also declined to do the MM story. 12/16: Sylvia Chase quits 20/20 and ABC, saying the MM decision was not a factor. 1/27: Roone Arledge promoted to Group President of ABC News & Sports, a new position created by Cap Cities, Inc., the new owner of ABC. Meanwhile, Summers is working on new material to be added to the upcoming paperback version of "Goddess."

FWST 3-28-86

# Sirhan bid for parole is rejected

Associated Press

SOLEDAD, Calif. — Sirhan Sirhan was denied parole for the eighth time Thursday.

The parole board called the 1968 murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy "an attack on the democratic system of the United States."

The convicted assassin flinched as the ruling was announced. His eyes appeared to fill with tears as he listened to the board's statement, which called for him to undergo intensive psychiatric testing and therapy and to be transferred to the state medical facility at Vacaville, 50 miles east of San Francisco.

The three-member panel deliberated for 2½ hours. At Sirhan's previous hearing, a different board took just three minutes to reject his bid.

Chairman Albert Leddy said it had been "a difficult decision," stressing that the board wanted to treat Sirhan the same as any other prisoner.

"We wished (also) to assure the safety of the people of California," Leddy said. "The offense was carried out in a cruel and callous manner. The crime was an attack on the democratic system of the United States."

Sirhan, who will have another hearing next year, apologized to the parole panel during a hearing, but a prosecutor argued that Sirhan should not be freed because his crime was "an enormous offense against the American people."

"I'm sorry it happened," said Sirhan, 42. "I wish it had never happened."

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Larry Trapp told the panel, the eighth to consider freedom for Sirhan since he first was eligible for parole in 1975, that it should "send out the message this is a crime that will never be tolerated or treated with mitigation."

Kennedy was appearing at a campaign event at a Los Angeles hotel during his bid for the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination when he was slain.

The Dallas Morning News
**Sunday, March 30, 1986**
**MEMORY LANE: In 1981, President Reagan was shot and wounded by John W. Hinckley Jr. at the Washington Hilton Hotel.**

# Who Killed President Kennedy?

**REASONABLE DOUBT**
**An Investigation into the Assassination of John F. Kennedy**
By Henry Hurt
Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 555 pp. $19.95

**By J. Anthony Lukas**

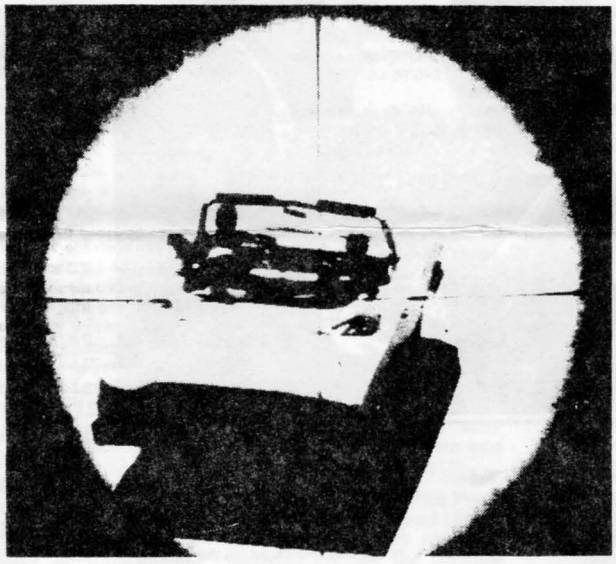
BARELY A MONTH after John Kennedy's assassination, I arrived in Christchurch, New Zealand, on a reporting trip for *The New York Times*. Since breaking news was hard to come by in that fair, bucolic land, I was delighted to stumble on a small group of expatriate Americans, who had gone there to escape the threat of nuclear war in the Northern Hemisphere. One night at their bungalow on the city's edge, the conversation turned to the president's death. It was from them that I first encountered profound distrust of the official version. And their suspicion went far beyond the assassination itself to encompass the very agencies charged with investigating the crime, the integrity of the American system itself.

"So what are you really saying?" I finally asked in some exasperation. "That the CIA, the Texas oil industry and the South Vietnamese government joined hands to kill the president?" "Possible," said an intense young Midwesterner. "That's what you have to understand. Anything is possible."

I thought of that conversation the other day when I finished *Reasonable Doubt*, Henry Hurt's major new study of the Kennedy assassination. After 555 pages exhaustively analyzing the two-gunman theory, the "magic bullet," Officer Tippit's clipboard, David Ferrie's alibi, Jack Ruby's long distance phone calls, Clay Shaw's whips and chains, I could come to only one rational conclusion: anything is possible.

If one accepts Henry Hurt's analysis, the only scenario which is virtually impossible is the Warren Commission's conclusion: that Lee Harvey Oswald was solely responsible for killing Jack Kennedy.

*J. Anthony Lukas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter. His latest book is "Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families."*



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

*The assassin's view through a telescopic gun sight: this picture was taken from the same window in the Texas Book Depository with the auto in approximately the same position as was President Kennedy's car*

Hurt takes pains to emphasize that he is not part of the grassy-knoll crew, that band of stalwart conspiracy theorists whom I first encountered in New Zealand. A roving editor for *Readers Digest*, he has written an earlier book about a Soviet defector and has a continuing interest in the intelligence community. But his only previous work on the Kennedy assassination was research for Edward Jay Epstein's *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald*. Hurt concedes that, like many Americans, he had "a general feeling that the official version seemed illogically simplistic," but insists that during his early labors on *Reasonable Doubt* he "fully expected that at any moment I would encounter that single, unalterable piece of evidence that left no question that Oswald was the man who killed Kennedy."

Perhaps, but his suspension of judgment didn't seem to last very long. Throughout this volume, Hurt is openly contemptuous of the conventional version. He writes of the "gross incompetence" of the president's autopsy; the "whole corrupt package" of evidence in Officer Tippit's shooting; the "whole dismal debacle" of the destruction of military records; the "quicksands of deceit" into which the government kept slipping; the "familiar manipulation of facts to build a case against Oswald," and finally the Warren Commision's "flagrant disregard for the truth."

THERE IS ample reason, of course, to doubt the commission's received wisdom. Hurt is most convincing in his meticulous dissection of its scenario. Although little of his material is fresh, he skillfully marshals existing data to expose gaping lacunae in the argument. The bungled autopsy, for example, still astonishes after all these years. Cyril Wecht, a former president of the American Academy of Forensic Medicine, may not have been exaggerating much when he declared, "This is the kind of examination that would not be tolerated in a routine murder case by a good crew of homicide detectives in most major cities of America."

The ballistics studies seem just as slipshod. There remain good grounds to doubt Oswald's ability to perform such remarkably fast and accurate shooting with his old, clumsy Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, or for that matter with any weapon. Sherman Cooley, an expert hunter who served with Oswald in the Marine Corps, said, "If I had to pick one man in the whole United States to shoot me, I'd pick Oswald. I saw that man shoot, and there's no way he could have ever learned to shoot well enough to do what they accused him of."

But Hurt is less persuasive when he seeks to assemble an alternative scenario. Everyone in his story has a purpose, every event a larger meaning. There is little room for chance, for serendipity, for the random manner in which most people lead their lives.

And the only major piece of new evidence in *Reasonable Doubt* is singularly unconvincing. This is the testimony of one Robert Wilfred Easterling, who has told Hurt at great length of his role in a conspiracy to kill the president. According to Easterling, he was approached at the Habana Bar in New Orleans in Febrary 1963 by one Manuel Rivera, apparently an agent for the Cuban government, who promised to pay him well for his help in the assassination. It was Rivera himself who did the shooting, Easterling says, but the elaborate plan involved firing Oswald's rifle into a barrel of water to obtain bullets which could later be used to mislead investigators; an Oswald "clone" who made himself conspicuous at the Texas Book Depository both before and after the assassination; and a large wooden box used to smuggle the real death weapon out of the Depository some time later.

Years later, Rivera's younger brother, Francisco, encountered Easterling in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. After drinking for several hours at a hotel bar, Francisco told Easterling that he had seen his picture on the wall of Raul Castro's den. To prove this, he pulled from his pocket a small portfolio of photographs showing the items on Raul's wall—pictures of Easterling, Oswald, Ruby, David Ferrie, Manuel Rivera and still another of a Czech-made rifle attached to a wooden board, above a mahogany plaque inscribed "Kennedy 1963."

By Hurt's own description, Easterling is "a terribly sullied witness." Parts of his story are "obviously preposterous." He is "a multiple felon, an ex-convict, a raging alcoholic, a diagnosed psychotic and schizophrenic," who has been committed to mental institutions on several occasions. Yet Hurt chastizes the FBI for failing to take Easterling's story seriously.

In the final analysis, Hurt concedes, "It is not possible to prove that Easterling's confession is true." Indeed, "it is useless, if not foolish, to attempt to argue conclusively in favor of a particular theory. . . . Too much pertinent evidence is either missing, destroyed, or languishing under seals of national security. Hope for a final answer must be held in abeyance until the day when there is full access to those secrets."

In the meantime, anything and everything is possible. ■

# The Strange Murder of Officer Tippit

*Dale Myers, a local radio announcer and businessman, has spent the past five years conducting an independent investigation into the assasination of President John Kennedy. One element of that investigation has dealt with the murder of Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit an hour after Kennedy was shot. The Warren Commission declared that Lee Harvey Oswald shot Tippit. Myers, though, has obtained documents through the Freedom of Information Act that shed a new light on this incident.*

**By Dale Myers**

Officer Tippit

**ONE OF THE** most overlooked and under-researched aspects of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been the murder of Dallas Patrolman J.D. Tippit.

Tippit was killed while alledgedly attempting to arrest Lee Harvey Oswald, forty-five minutes after the murder of the president.

The death of Officer Tippit is what lead to the arrest of Oswald, who wasn't charged with the Kennedy assassination until eight hours later.

Staff investigator for the Warren Commission, David Belin, stated in 1964 that the Tippit shooting was the "Rosetta Stone" of the case against Oswald.

With so much emphasis on the Tippit murder, it is puzzling that so little investigative research was dedicated to it by the Warren Commission and more importantly, the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Two years of exhaustive research by this investigator, and the release of previously suppressed documents throw doubt on the conclusions of both government committees, as well as shedding light on initial reactions to the Kennedy and Tippit killings by police officials.

Shortly after 1:00 p.m., thirty minutes following the assassination of President Kennedy, Dallas Patrolman J.D. Tippit was cruising the 400 block of 10th street in the Dallas suburb of Oak Cliff.

According to the "official" record, Tippit stopped a man walking along the residential street and following a brief conversation through the vent window of his patrol car, Tippit emerged to further question the suspect. As Tippit approached, the man withdrew a gun from underneath his jacket and fatally shot the officer four times.

Following the Warren Report release, assassination researchers immediately charged that Oswald could not possibly have covered the distance between his rooming house and the Tippit scene within the allowed time.

The commission staffers argued that it was indeed possible, based on the testimony of Domingo Benavides, who is alleged to have reported the shooting on Tippit's police radio at 1:16 p.m.

However, the commission failed to study the tape recordings of the Dallas police radio and instead relied on Benavides' testimony *and* an F.B.I. transcript of the Dallas police tapes.

Careful study by this researcher reveals that the shooting was actually reported by T.F. Bowley; *not* Benavides, and that this occurred at 1:17:34 p.m., a minute and a half *later* than the official time.

Benavides' own testimony (and tape) recordings back him up) also indicate that 3 or 4 minutes elapsed between the time Tippit was shot and the time it was reported to police by Bowley.

Following months of careful study, it was determined that Tippit stopped, and then was shot, by a man sometime between 1:11 p.m. and 1:14 p.m.

In the course of this phase of the investigation, a startling discrepancy was discovered.

Almost two minutes of time is unaccounted for on channel-one of the Dallas police tapes.

The discrepancy falls between 1:12 and 1:14 p.m.; during the crucial moments when Tippit was gunned down.

Investigators have often questioned why Tippit did not advise the dispatcher prior to leaving his patrol car, a standard police procedure.

Two minutes of missing tape raises the speculation that Tippit may have, in fact, radioed the dispatcher with relevant information.

Evidence unearthed by this researcher indicates a gunman other than Oswald.

Several witnesses at the scene told investigators that *two* men were seen near Tippit's patrol car during the shooting.

As one left the scene on foot, the other jumped into a light-colored automobile and drove off.

Additional research revealed a curious set of transmissions broadcast over the city police and the sheriff department radios shortly after the shooting.

Less than ten minutes after Tippit fell dead, Dallas City Police and Sheriff Deputies were told to be on the look out for a white Pontiac station wagon, wanted in connection with the Tippit slaying.

City police officers later reported that the same car was also wanted in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy, and had been seen at a service station, occupied by two white males who had a shotgun or a rifle laying in the back seat.

The most interesting aspect of the mysterious "white automobile" is the fact that two police agencies connected the Kennedy and Tippit murders through persons other than Oswald, almost 30 minutes prior to the arrest of the man who, later, would be formally charged with both killings.

Witnesses to the shooting reported to police that they saw the suspect drop several shells at the location as he fled, and indeed, police recovered 4 shells during the course of the afternoon.

Patrolman J.M. Poe was given two spent cartridges shortly after Tippit's murder, by eyewitness Domingo Benavides.

Several minutes later, homicide detective Gerald Hill was shown these shells by Poe. Walking to a nearby patroicar, Hill called the dispatcher: "The shells at the scene indicate that the suspect is armed with an automatic .38 rather than a pistol."

No doubt, Hill was surprised 20 minutes later, when he and fellow officers arrested Lee Harvey Oswald at the Texas theater and discovered that he was armed with a .38 pistol; which wasn't equipped to fire automatic ammunition.

Eight months later, when the Warren Commission released its report, it was revealed that the shells recovered by police at the Tippit shooting scene *were* pistol shells, and that they were fired in Oswald's handgun to the exclusion of all other weapons!!!

Careful study of this incident raises even more questions concerning the shoddy handling of the *only* solid link between Oswald and the death of J.D. Tippit.

Initially, doubts were voiced by researchers, when Warren Commission staffers discovered that the slugs recovered from the body of Tippit did not correspond to the shells discarded at the scene.

Under further questioning by Warren Commission staff investigators, Detective Gerald Hill *denied* stating over the police radio that the shells shown to him by J.M. Poe were "automatics."

Staff investigators dropped the matter, and never checked the Dallas police tape recordings which *prove* that Hill *did* make that statement.

The 1964 investigation also fails to clarify the "chain-of-evidence" regarding the spent cartridges.

Under questioning, Warren Commission researchers learned that the police officers who handled the shells could not identify them.

Two months later, the F.B.I. was called in to clear up the matter, and while questioning Officer Poe, discovered that Poe could not find his identifying initials on either of the shells he is credited with handling at the Tippit scene, and later turned over to crime lab officer W.E. Barnes.

Barnes told the F.B.I. that the same shells *were* the two given to him by Poe on the afternoon of November 22nd.

Even though the chain of evidence had been broken, the matter was dropped and the F.B.I. relied on the testimony of W.E. Barnes in its report to the commission.

Oswald was arrested and in police custody a little more than five hours before being formally arraigned on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of Dallas Patrolman J.D. Tippit.

If police had possession of spent shells matching the revolver taken from Oswald at the Texas theater; why was there such a long delay in charging him with Tippit's slaying?

Investigation reveals that *all four shells* allegedly recovered at the Tippit scene were *not* in police possession until a few minutes prior to Oswald's official arraignment.

Considering the fact that the F.B.I. was unable to connect Lee Harvey Oswald to the assassination of J.F.K. until the day *after* his arrest, the deadly importance of all the shenanigans revolving around the Dallas police handling of the Tippit case is reflected in the Warren Commission testimony of Ted Callaway:

"...Detective Jim Leavelle met us and took us into this room where they showed us the lineup...and Jim told us, 'When I show you these guys...see if you can make a positive identification...We want to try to wrap him (Oswald) up real tight on killing this officer. We think he is the same one that shot the president. But if we can wrap him up tight on killing this officer, we have got him."

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Fort Worth STAR-TELEGRAM FRIDAY MORNING NOV. 17, 1967

11-17-67

# Oswald's Mother Asks Disinterment

By BILL HENDRICKS

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said Thursday night that she wants to exhume the body of her son, accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

She made this revelation in the course of an interview at her home.

"I would now like to ask to have my son's body exhumed," she said.

Mrs. Oswald, who observed her 60th birthday July 19, said she believes an examination of Lee Harvey's remains would somewhat discredit portions of the Warren Report.

She explained:

The Warren Report contains among its 26 volumes references to two scars said to be on Oswald's body. One is a slash mark, said to have been self inflicted, on Oswald's left wrist. And there is a gunshot wound, said to have been the result of Oswald's accidentally discharging a weapon while in the Marines.

**No Such Scars**

Mrs. Oswald said she is convinced there are no such scars.

"I think now would be the time to exhume this boy's body and see if he has these scars," Mrs. Oswald said.

Mrs. Oswald explained that she meant she believed now is "the time" because the fourth anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy is next week, Nov. 22.

Her son's body is encased in a heavy concrete vault, buried at Rose Hill Burial Park.

Mrs. Oswald said she has no idea how to go about getting Lee Harvey's body exhumed.

She lives in a modest brick house at 4029 Byers.

Mrs. Oswald said she is estranged from her two other sons, Lee Harvey's widow and her grandchildren.

She lives alone with her only companion a young German Shepherd, named Fritz.

**Sells 'Souvenirs'**

"I'm the mother of this boy (Lee Harvey) and I'm suffering," she said.

Mrs. Oswald, who worked as a practical nurse before her son became history, has not held a job since the assassination.

She has not sought work, Mrs. Oswald said, because she believes no one would want to employ her.

She has earned her living by auctioning "Lee's letters" and other "personal" items.

Mrs. Oswald said she sold two letters about six weeks ago for $750 each.

What happens when the letters are all sold?

"I don't know," she answered.

Mrs. Oswald said she has devoted all her time to an investigation of the assassination.

**Many Telegrams**

She has read several volumes about the tragedy.

Mrs. Oswald sends many telegrams to officials; including President Johnson.

Most recently, she sent a telegram to Sen. Robert Kennedy, brother of the late president.

In the telegram, Mrs. Oswald made reference to an article written by the senator and published in Look magazine, "What We Can Do to End the Agony of Vietnam."

The telegram to Kennedy stated, "There can be no peace until the truth is told about the tragedy in Dallas."

Mrs. Oswald talked as she paced about the living room — a copy of the famous Whistler painting of his mother sitting in a rocking chair hanging on a wall. On another wall is a plaque inscribed:

"My Son: Lee Harvey Oswald. Even after his death has done more for his country than any other living human being."

Mrs. Oswald often seemed near tears and at one point exclaimed, "I'm a victim of the assassination."

She continued, "I should not have to suffer being the mother of an assassin unless it is proved."

Finally, she said, "I'm waiting for you to say how good I look. Everyone has."

Mrs. Oswald named two other news reporters who, she said, had remarked about her appearance.

(This article is an excerpt from a long profile on Bob Schieffer, then a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and now with CBS News.)

*November 3, 1985* The Dallas Morning News

•

In 1963, he was home sleeping when his mother called to tell him President Kennedy had been shot. Though he'd been working late the night before, Schieffer jumped out of bed and drove to the *Star-Telegram*.

"Just as I got to the parking lot, it came over the radio that Kennedy was dead," Schieffer remembers. "I liked him a lot and I felt so badly."

He helped them answer phones. "People just couldn't believe what they saw on television so they called the newspaper to make sure it really happened."

One woman called and asked if someone could drive her to Dallas.

"Look lady," Schieffer barked into the phone. "This isn't a taxi service. The president's been shot."

"I know," she said, "I think my son is the man who shot him."

It was Marguerite Oswald.

Borrowing a car and a driver, Schieffer drove Oswald's mother to Dallas.

"She was the real villain," he says. "The first thing she said was that people would feel sorry for Oswald's wife and give her a lot of money and she wouldn't get any. I should have written it all, but I didn't. I tempered it. How can you be hard on someone whose son has just done something like that?"

The Dallas police assumed Schieffer was a Fort Worth police officer and he didn't correct them. "I always wore a hat, the same Dick Tracy hat the cops wore. I told them I wanted to stay with Mrs. Oswald so they gave me an office . . . with a phone."

While hundreds of reporters scrambled to nearby buildings in search of pay phones, Schieffer quietly gathered information from the *Star-Telegram* reporters and called it in to the newspaper.

"I *almost* interviewed Oswald," he says. But as he accompanied Mrs. Oswald in to a meeting with her son, an FBI agent realized he was a reporter and chased him off.

It took several months for Schieffer to recover from the assassination. "It was emotional burn-out," he says. "You can't imagine how people in Fort Worth and Dallas felt."

But Schieffer says he also learned a lesson in good reporting.

"Whenever I talk to journalism classes, I always tell them to wear a hat," he says with a laugh. "That old snap-brim got me into a lot of places."

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BRIEFS....The aerial photograph on page 1 makes the freeway/underpass area look much bigger than it really is; researcher Larry Howard videotaped Ed at the places where he stood, from Officer Brown's location and the suspects' location - all are completely convincing....Reasonable Doubt, which has yet to be reviewed by the local papers, has received decidedly mixed reviews nationally and is not yet on the best seller lists....According to a reporter in Robert Easterling's hometown, "Cowboy Bob" had repeatedly tried to interest him in becoming his book agent so "we can make a lot of money"; later, he allegedly bragged he was negotiating a $25,000 fee with Reader's Digest. The reporter, who has an interesting connection to Lee Harvey Oswald, has agreed to write his account, which included warnings to Henry Hurt about Easterling's lack of credibility, for the next newsletter (dated either April or May)....Marina Oswald Porter's suit to gain custody of the videotapes and still photographs of the exhumation study, after two years, was scheduled for March 17, but an unavailable witness, researcher Mary Ferrell, forced a postponement to August 4; both of us had agreed to testify for Marina....Thanks to Frank Krstulja for several RFK clips (with one or more also set for next issue), and to Larry Harris for the WP review of Reasonable Doubt.... John Paul Adamcik, 28-year veteran of the Dallas Police, died around January 1; he was one of the officers who searched the Paine home on 11/22 and 11/23....Also dead is Newton T. ("Dolly") Fisher, a retired assistant chief with the Dallas Police, of Alzheimer's disease early in December 1985; on 11/22, Fisher, who knew both Ruby and Tippit, headed security at Love Field and confiscated newsfilm shot by WBAP-TV photographer Jimmy Darnell. Saying "That's sacreligious" to film the coffin being loaded onto Air Force 1, Fisher demanded Jimmy's closeup film and he, a newcomer to news, turned it over - it has never been found, even though the station, at my request, filed an FOI with the Bureau; contacted in 1982, Fisher told me he had no recollection of the incident, but some station personnel recall it vividly....A recent episode of Twilight Zone ("Profile In Silver") dealt with what may have happened if the assassination had been thwarted (motorcade footage in Dealey Plaza appeared to be an alternate take from the CBS docudrama Ruby and Oswald); CBS has canceled the series, so try to catch the rerun - but prepare yourself for the headshot knocking the President forward!

**COVERUPS! A normally bimonthly publication dedicated primarily to the responsible study of the JFK assassination and related events, including new developments and reprints of significant historical articles. Entire contents copyright 1986. Subscription price in the US and North America is $1 per issue, $1.25 elsewhere. All back issues are the same price. Video tapes are available to subscribers only. Within the US, personal checks must clear before anything is sent; elsewhere, only money orders for US funds are accepted. One or more free issues are given to contributors whose material is published. Your subscription will expire with the issue number next to your name/address.**

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